

# The Sun.

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## A Good American Professor.

It is a pleasure to find a Professor of Political Science in an American university writing about the policy of the United States with some breadth of view and some patriotic confidence in this nation's ability to take care of itself under any circumstances. Such qualities distinguish an article in the *March Forum*, on the influence of the war on our public life, by Prof. L. S. ROWE of the University of Pennsylvania.

Concerning the practical aspects of the question of expansion, Prof. Rowe remarks: "Our interest in the West Indies and in the Philippines, whatever may be the ultimate disposition of these islands, is certain to hasten the development of our political life. The advance from a position of economic dependence to one of equality with Europe carries with it obligations from which we cannot escape. Close contact with the West will make clear where the great commercial opportunities lie. The peculiar conditions of trade in that portion of the globe demand that our government pave the way for commercial supremacy. Our merchants and manufacturers will demand that we secure the scramble of the European Powers for special trade privileges. This little by little, the negative attitude of the American people toward government will give way to a more positive interpretation of its role. Non-interference with European affairs will no longer be interpreted as a lack of interest in European affairs. In short, the doctrine of political isolation, based on the Monroe doctrine, is likely to be set at rest by recent events."

Nor does the language which some of the Professors discover in the failure of the Constitution to provide specifically for the present situation, frighten Prof. Rowe of the University of Pennsylvania.

"The conduct of Spain's former colonial possessions, whether temporary or permanent, will make it necessary to devise forms of government hitherto unknown to the Constitution. This alone will place the instrument in a new light before the people. It will show that the Constitution is not a dead letter, but a living organism, and that it cannot be amended by the simple process of the amendment of the Constitution."

This Professor of Political Science sees no gloom ahead, no reason for despairing of American institutions.

"The size of the times are fundamentally misleading, the influence of the period of national feeling into which we are entering will be most clearly felt in its effects upon our civil life. Indications of the change are already apparent in the newspapers, in the public meetings, and in all the organs of public opinion. They give evidence of an intensity of patriotic feeling which is certain to give a new impetus to our people's national problems."

This is a thinking and healthy teaching, and we congratulate the class in political science in the University of Pennsylvania upon the sort of instruction it is getting.

## Two Tracks, but No Grab!

No settlement of the Amsterdam Avenue question will answer unless, while affording protection to the citizens by limiting the tracks to two, it also preserves the rights of both the companies entitled to run cars through that street.

To obtain the desired reduction in the number of tracks, the existing company and giving the monopoly of the traffic to the other company, is a process of confiscation not to be contemplated for an instant.

That is the grab, and the corporation urging it is the grabber.

There should be only two tracks in Amsterdam Avenue, and the Metropolitan Street Railway Company and the Forty-second Street, Manhattanville and St. Nicholas Avenue Railway Company should both use those two tracks jointly, upon full compensation by the latter company for the right to use the former's tracks.

Such is the proposition embodied in the Lauterbach amendment, and in that form, or substantially in that form, it affords the only just settlement in sight.

It gives the people of Amsterdam Avenue all that they have been contending for on their own account. It gives the city road-way on each side of the tracks sufficient to accommodate vehicles other than street cars. It dispenses impartial justice to the two rival concerns.

That should be the settlement effected by the Legislature this week at Albany.

## A Conference of the Powers.

For reasons thoroughly understood in Princeton, N. J., Buffalo, N. Y., is still the capital of reform. Inevitably, then, the National Social and Political Conference will confer at Buffalo, June 28. The conference will be composed of "men and women of various political and social beliefs, to consider the present condition of American politics and economics, and what is the best thing to do." So says the Hon. ELWOOD POMEROY, Secretary to the Committee on Invitation, and one of the head nurses of the initiative and referendum. The Committee on Invitation includes some of the most eminent characters on view. A partial list:

ALLEN, WIND V., late Populist Senator from Nebraska, the holder of the long-talked-belt; ALLEN, JAMES P., who pardoned the Chicago Anarchists; ALLEN, JAMES B., BENJAMIN, who believes in free money and sixteen to one; BUTLER, MARION, Populist Senator from North Carolina, who wouldn't acknowledge Tom Watson's letter accepting the Populist nomination for Vice President; DRES, EDWARD V., of Terre Haute and Chicago, an opponent of government by injunction; DOSTER, FRANK, Chief Justice of Kansas, who holds that the rights of the user of property are superior to those of the owner; GOWERS, SAM, a learned political economist and anti-expansionist; HARVEY, JOHN, collector for the Democratic National Committee and agent for the Jeffersonian club; HARRIS, GEORGE D., Professor of Applied Christianity in Iowa College, who insists that the United States is doomed; LEWIS, HAM, of Seattle, a friend of beauty and foe of "fascinated snakes"; PINSKER, POTATO, candidate for President and enemy of plutocrats not in his class; MEYERSON, J. B., New York, who

practices university settlement and miscellaneous reform; SIMON, JOSE, of Pennsylvania, silver-statemanager, rich enough to be a plutocrat, but saved by believing in sixteen to one; SIMON, JERRY, retired statesman; ST. JOHN, JOHN PETER, prohibitionist; WILLIAMS, GEORGE FRED, member of the Democratic National Committee from Massachusetts, friend of man, sage.

PINSKER'S name leads all the rest on the list of committeemen, and the unthinking have surmised that the conference is called for the purpose of making a new party for him as he feels overdone in his present quarters, but "the convention is purely a meeting for conference," and PINSKER has threatened to make the Republicans nominate him for President if the Money Devil and the Octopus get too gay. At the Buffalo conference he will meet many philosophers of his school.

Less obvious members of the committee are Mr. WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS, who will find some rich material in the conference; Mayor JOSHUA QUINCY of Boston, leader of the Boston Municipal Brass Band, 39 pieces, and a high authority on municipal music and harmony; Dr. LYMAN ABBOTT, editor of the *Outlook*, and Mr. W. S. MORAN, editor of the *Buzz* and, who, we suppose, will be present as journalists. Buffalo and reform will have proud days next June.

## Reform in the Surrogate's Court.

The committee of the Legislature which has been engaged in making an investigation into the business of the Surrogate's Court of this county, as carried on by Surrogate JOHN H. V. ARNOLD, has reported a series of bills designed to effect a reform in the administrative and judicial matters of that tribunal.

These measures are mostly in the form of proposed amendments to the Code of Civil Procedure, regulating numerous matters of detail in regard to practice and patronage of the Surrogate's Court, which ought not to need any legislative regulation at all to the right kind of a man hold the office of Surrogate.

To adopt such amendments is to place the Surrogate's Court with statutory powers like this: "Warning to the Surrogate—Be Honest!"

The most absurd of the proposed requirements is the provision withholding the monthly pay of the Surrogate until he has made oath that he has no undeclared case which has been under submission to him more than sixty days.

Cases not infrequently arise in the Surrogate's Court which occupy weeks in the actual hearing and make a record filling many large volumes of printed matter. Such, for example, was the case of *W. J. COLLINS* when he was Surrogate of the county. To make it mandatory upon a Probate Judge to decide such a case within two months after it is submitted to him or else go without his salary, is to insist upon a degree of haste which is prejudicial to the due administration of justice, or, of course, such delays as were those of Surrogate ARNOLD cannot be justified or tolerated; but this proposed remedy is too stringent to be wise.

Nominate and elect men fit to be Surrogates. That is the true remedy. Restrictions and regulations like those recommended by the Assembly committee will only suffer to make a good judicial officer, while many of them clearly imply a disposition on the part of the Surrogate to do the wrong thing unless he be constrained to do the right thing, that their adoption by the Legislature will lessen the attractiveness of the office in the eyes of those lawyers who would be the most capable and honorable Surrogates.

The effort to make men fit for office by statutory compulsion is idle, and should be abandoned by sensible legislators.

**The Religious Care of Downtown New York.**

The Rev. Dr. RAINSFORD reported lately the old complaint that the Protestant churches which had "left the field" in the lower part of this town during the last generation had deprived it of spiritual care. The tendency of Protestant churches to remove thence, however, continues steadily. For instance, a movement is in progress for the extinction of the Presbyterian church in West Thirtieth street by consolidating it with the Fourth Avenue church of that denomination at Twenty-second street. The church to be abandoned is running down because of the loss of membership by removals to the northward, and the other, though financially well to do, has difficulty in getting a large congregation.

This has been the reason for the steady withdrawal of other Protestant churches from the lower part of the town. They left because they were dwindling away where they were. The people who had made up their congregations had moved uptown, and to preserve anything like a vigorous existence they had to follow them. It was a very simple question of demand and supply. They left a neighborhood where they were not wanted, and sought situations where there would be a demand for their services. As a result of this movement, undoubtedly, there are uptown districts which are supplied with those churches beyond the demand, and the doubtless many churches have become necessary, but more probably because of the decline of religious interest than because the supply is too great proportionately to the adjacent population nominally of their faith.

In the city of New York as it was before consolidation there are now about 100 Protestant churches, chapels and missions. Of these about 100, or one-fourth, are below Fourteenth street. Comparatively few of these churches in the lower part of the town are in a really flourishing condition, and many are preserving a very feeble existence. Instead of their number increasing it is likely to decrease as time goes on, for the same causes which operated to make essential the removal of those which already have left the region are acting on these also; but that does not mean that "the field" has been abandoned or is to be abandoned to irreligion.

Below Fourteenth street immigration has caused a radical change in the religious prejudices and affiliations of the population. Protestants have moved out, and in their place has come in a vastly larger population of Roman Catholics and of Jews. Neighborhoods where residences thirty or forty years ago were occupied singly by private Protestant families have been given over to tenement houses in which Jews, more especially, swarm. Even the Roman Catholic population in certain districts has moved out before the coming of Jews.

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them in this region. Below Fourteenth street also are twenty-two Roman Catholic churches, or, like the Protestant, about one-fourth of the whole number in the city, many of them the largest parishes in the town and some more populous than any others in the world. But the proportionate demand for Protestant teachings is small; and usually energy expended in propagation finds little encouragement in practical results achieved or possible achievement. The Protestant "sphere of influence" is no longer the lower part of the town. Roman Catholicism and Judaism divide between them the mastery of it.

That is a reasonable justification for the removal of Protestant churches, but because they have gone "the field" is not left unoccupied by religion, though the religious faith propagated is different from their own. The population of the districts so densely inhabited by Jews is generally sober, industrious, and strict in its Jewish orthodoxy. The Roman Catholic churches are crowded at many of their services, and a numerous force of priests is ceaselessly at work in the parishes. It is probable, therefore, that in that region of the town the teeming population receives no less spiritual care than do the residents in the districts to the northward where there is no such density of population.

Finally, there is no ground for the frequent accusation that the exodus has been due to the supineness of Protestants, so far as the parishes concerned, during the very period when it has retired so extensively from lower New York. It has been distinguished by greater efforts to aid the poor than ever before in its history in this town. It has not been neglectful of them, but constantly and earnestly has been solicited for their material good, seeking to attract them by means of philanthropic enterprises. The comparatively small religious results secured by it enforce a lesson which churches everywhere may well heed. It is that the care and cure of religion must be of the soul rather than of the body, and that its part in the world is to create in man enthusiasm for the religious ideal which will uplift his spirit above the light afflictions of this earthly life.

**It Will Be Known as the National Library.**

The subjoined letter from Boston refers to an institution of which every intelligent American is proud:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—I have just read your editorial article of Thursday on 'The National Library.' I am glad you call it the National Library, and I am glad it ought to be designated, but Washington seems to be given to speaking of it as the Library of Congress and the Congressional Library. It strikes me that such an institution ought to be designated as the National Library. I have no objection to the name of the Library of Congress, but the name of the National Library is the only proper one for it. H. A. J. Boston, March 18."

The vast collection of books, pamphlets and manuscripts newly housed opposite the Capitol is officially known as the Library of Congress. That is the title it bears at present in the Government directory. Its library is styled the Library of Congress.

The existing mechanical connection between the Library and Congress is subterranean. A tunnel has been constructed by which the legislators in the Capitol can procure the books they want without crossing over to the Library building. It will not be long before the legal and technical link between the Library and the Legislature branch of the Government will be as much out of sight as this book tunnel. The people will insist on calling it the National Library. If we are not mistaken, bills were introduced at the last session of Congress to make the official name of the institution accord with the larger conception of its status and functions.

The Library of Congress is already one of the greatest libraries of the world. The number of printed volumes on its shelves is somewhat over 800,000, and it is nearing the million mark; in 1852 the aggregate of the collection was 20,000. The new building will afford shelf room for 4,500,000 volumes. Our correspondence is right in his idea of the proper designation for this truly national establishment.

**Ten to One.**

In the war between the Dollarites and the Ten Dollars of New York, the Dollarites have taken a distinct advantage. They stand on solid Bryanite ground, while Mr. Croker and the minions of plutocracy at the Democratic Club ask that their Jeffersonian fee a price which must rouse every true Bryanite heart to mutiny. It is not impossible that the next Democratic national platform will contain a declaration against ten-dollar-a-plate dinners. Let the money changers revel at the Metropolitan Opera House on April 13. The producing classes will gather on the same night at the Grand Central Palace and eat a plain silver dollar dinner. They are men not to be intimidated by the threats or seduced by the spreads of monopoly.

Mr. E. STELLMAN DOTREDAY, Secretary of the Dollar Committee on Invitations, expressed the irrefragable truth upon which the Grand Central Palace feast will be founded:

"Our dinner is a bare against elaborate spreads, the cost of which beats out the man of moderate means."

Leave to the soft Crokerian his dyes and his perfumes. While idle wealth gorges with purple gills at the Opera House, the genuine sons of Sixteen to One will eat a simple Democratic meal at a dollar a head and denounce the tyrants after it. The bill of fare will be substantially as follows:

Soup, 16c.  
Goulden's Cold Beef, 16c.  
Devilled Money Devil, 16c.  
Anti-Monopoly, Extra Dry, 16c.  
Chicago Silver Dollars, 16c.  
Jeffersonian Five Cents, 16c.

No sincere Bryanite is justified in paying more than a silver dollar for his dinner. The plutocrats must be kept down.

It is proper to assume that the question here following is asked, as alleged, with a sincere desire to obtain information:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—For the benefit of some of the readers of THE SUN, whose views are not sufficiently able to readily admit themselves to the sudden departure from the old-fashioned Jeffersonian policy of governments deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, will you kindly answer the following question, which is made with a sincere desire to obtain information?"

"How, or from where, do governments get their just powers?"

—PANSKY, March 15.

Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

This does not mean, however, as some people would like to have Mr. WISNED read, that the consent of every individual

governed is necessary in order that the government of him may be just, and not unjustly exercised.

If that view of the question were sound there would be no law for anybody who chose to repudiate and defy the existing authority.

Nor does it mean, as other people would like to have Mr. WISNED understand, that the consent of a town, State, Territory, or section is needed in order that it may be just, and not unjustly governed.

If that view were correct, Passaic could set up an independent Government, with a flag of its own and Mr. WISNED could be a Senator, providing a majority of the people of Passaic were so inclined.

**THE COTTON CROP OF 1898-99.**

Mr. Henry Neill Writes to The Sun Concerning His Famous Estimate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Your article published in the *March Forum* contains the totally erroneous statement that "in the middle of the summer" I published "the estimate and reiterated declaration that this crop would be between 11,750,000 and 12,000,000 bales." The only publication I made in the middle of the summer was a circular dated Aug. 3, in which I said: "I have no hesitation in saying that the promise of to-day, even with somewhat unfavorable conditions hereafter, is for a crop of 10,500,000 bales, with 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 more within the range of possibility."

There is no doubt that in October and November the public saw, as I saw, that the cotton crop of 1898-99 was a vast one, and that the actual growth, if it could all be saved, was up to or over 12,000,000. How much this vast crop had been destroyed by the weather, I cannot say. It is not known, but had I had more time, there is no doubt that I could have estimated it. I have not, however, and I have not, therefore, published any estimate in November or December. I have, however, published a circular in December, in which I have estimated the crop at 11,750,000 bales, and I have, therefore, published a circular in December, in which I have estimated the crop at 11,750,000 bales.

As regards the present growing crop, it is apparent that the promise of to-day is equal or superior to the promise of to-morrow. It is now known to be over 8,000,000 outside of Texas and over 3,000,000 bales in Texas.

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## GEN. GOMEZ AND MR. McKINLEY.

The View of a Constant Friend of the Cuban Republicans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—To the friends of Cuba in this country who have so long and so successfully championed its cause, through evil and through good report, the action of the Cuban Assembly in deposing Gen. Gomez and Senor Quesada is a matter of surprise and disgust. We know how faithfully they have served the cause, the one as the Cuban Army and the other as the representative of Cuba at Washington, and that they have deserved not reproaches and disgrace, but gratitude and thanks at the hands of their countrymen.

The Government of the United States, having been Spain from the island, is now endeavoring to restore order and prosperity, and to organize a civil Government, founded on the franchises of the people, that will be able to take charge of Cuba when the military forces of this country are withdrawn.

The most surprising question presented by the disposition to be made of the Cuban Army, variously estimated at from 30,000 to 45,000 men. During the war this army subsisted as best it could upon the country. It took what it wanted or could get, without regard to law and on the ground of military necessity. As long as it was fighting the Spaniards this was justifiable. But now that the war is over the army must be disbanded, and its soldiers must return to the body of the people. Most of them have no present means of subsistence, and there is danger that, if not properly cared for, they will become a source of trouble to the country.

There is no doubt that in October and November the public saw, as I saw, that the cotton crop of 1898-99 was a vast one, and that the actual growth, if it could all be saved, was up to or over 12,000,000. How much this vast crop had been destroyed by the weather, I cannot say. It is not known, but had I had more time, there is no doubt that I could have estimated it. I have not, however, and I have not, therefore, published any estimate in November or December. I have, however, published a circular in December, in which I have estimated the crop at 11,750,000 bales, and I have, therefore, published a circular in December, in which I have estimated the crop at 11,750,000 bales.

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